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1891

TO THE

SELECTMEN OF *Bradford*

A

COLLECTION OF PAPERS

RELATIVE TO THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE TOWN OF

MILTON,

IN THE

STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS,

TO PROMOTE A GENERAL INOCULATION

OF THE

COW POX, OR KINE POCK,

AS A NEVER FAILING PREVENTIVE

AGAINST

SMALL POX INFECTION.

BOSTON:
PRINTED FOR THE TOWN OF MILTON,
BY J. BELCHER,
1809.

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TO THE

PEOPLE OF MASSACHUSETTS,

THE COLLECTION OF THESE

PAPERS

RESPECTING

COW POX, OR KINE POCK INOCULATION;

AND VIEWS TO EXTEND THE BENEFIT THEREOF,

TO THE WHOLE COMMONWEALTH,

ARE PRESENTED,

AS AN OFFERING OF

PEACE AND GOODWILL,

BY THE

PEOPLE OF

MILTON.

THE following papers constitute all the transactions, which have taken place in the town of Milton, to promote therein a general Inoculation of the Cow Pox or Kine Pock, and afterwards to offer a proof of the never failing power of that mild preventive by the test of Small Pox Inoculation.

To attempt to extend the benefits of that great blessing is the object ardently desired, and to promote in some measure that design, a copy of these papers has been sent to the Selectmen of every town in the Commonwealth with the following address.

TO THE SELECTMEN,

OF EACH AND EVERY TOWN IN THE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

THE security of our families within our homes, and the safety of the state of which we are members, collectively constitute private and public happiness.

If that happiness can be disturbed by the sword of an invading enemy, is it not also exposed to be blasted by the deadly breath of pestilence? Who has been witness to the desolating scourge of the small pox, but knows that its terrors are not in vain?

Have we not seen at various periods confusion enter our towns, and affliction our families?

Have we not seen our ablest men, our country's strength and defence, mowed down by the cruel destroyer? Desolation filled our camp, and our frontier left exposed.

Shall we wait for another return of the deadly foe, or by the right improvement of a most merciful dispensation, testify a grateful sense thereof by securing ourselves and our country for ever?

The perusal of the papers annexed herewith will open to your view, the scheme in contemplation, it has received the fostering support of benevolence, from the highest authority in the state, and was countenanced at an early period by our brethren in the five towns of Dorchester, Dedham, Canton, Stoughton, and Sharon, who like us have experienced the facility and safety of the measure.

It is now our ardent wish to see its benefits extended to every town in the Commonwealth; our joint endeavours we offer to you in the bonds of love and peace; that peace which would depart from us, if this work begun, and so far pursued, under a peculiar blessing, was by us forsaken before its completion.

We beseech you, therefore, by every consideration which is dear to man, attentively to peruse these papers; to invite your respected ministers to consider the contents, and call thereto the immediate attention of the representatives of your town, that they may be fully acquainted with the subject before their attendance at the next General Court.

Use your best endeavors to spread them amongst your people, and thereby prepare the way soon to establish their security; in your exertions you will find the way to peace and pleasantness, for the object of the undertaking, which we call upon you to join, is to diffuse amongst men one of the greatest temporal blessings ever bestowed on our race, a perfect security against that cruel pestilence the small pox.

SAMUEL GILE, Minister of the Gospel, Milton,

DAVID TUCKER,
WILLIAM PEIRCE,
JOHN RUGGLES, Jun'r. } *Selectmen of said town.*

OLIVER HOUGHTON,
RUFUS PEIRCE,
JOHN MARK GOURGAS,
JASON HOUGHTON,
JEDIDIAH ATHERTON,
AMOS HOLBROOK, } *Committee for Vaccination of said town.*

Milton, 27th November, 1809.

N. B. Those papers have been written, and the proceedings, to which they refer, combined, with a wish to develope to the mind the extent and the certainty of the blessing offered, to warm it with gratitude for the supreme source whence it flows, and thereby to create a desire for the acceptance of the same.

If the attempt has not entirely failed, it seems that it might be a desirable object to place this collection within the reach of every family.

Those who are blessed with affluence would have a pleasing opportunity materially to advance the good work by getting this small pamphlet reprinted in every county, and distributed either gratis, or at prime cost.

A set of the papers presented here to the public was delivered on the 15th November 1809, to Benjamin Russell, Esq. by the chairman of the Selectmen of Milton, Deacon David Tucker, and at the same time a letter of which the following is a copy; as this letter establishes the broad basis upon which this work was begun, and has been pursued, of *good will towards man*; to which principle a ready and liberal assent, proceeding from the heart, has been received, wherever called for, the Selectmen have deemed it proper to include said letter in the present collection of their papers.

Milton, Nov. 15, 1809.

SIR,

YOU will receive herewith a set of papers which includes all the transactions which have taken place in the town of Milton, respecting Kine Pock Inoculation; they are presented to you, Sir, in compliance with the promise made the day that Milton was favoured with your attendance, as President of the Honourable Board of Health, when you liberally offered to publish them in the Centinel; they are also presented to you as to the man whose exertions have been so ably engaged from the earliest period to make evident that great blessing, and who has uninterruptedly persevered in that benevolent pursuit. We hope and trust that the Editors of the other Boston Prints will join by giving to those papers, and to this letter, an early insertion, availing ourselves with pleasure of this opportunity to acknowledge the favours already received from them.

This is the cause of humanity, and its interests might be developed to the happiness and security of our country; men therefore will join it with pleasure; but we owe to that cause to say, that it should remain distinct; it cannot be associated with any other object, nor any other name, it must stand unconnected upon its own basis. Professional or political attainments are extremely honourable, but they can have no connexion with this undertaking; we feel bound to say

that it is hallowed ground upon which no man should enter but with purity of heart, and self renunciation. If any man therefore, should attempt to make this work subservient to private views, and thereby retard its progress he would probably have to answer for a waste of human life. To make the views apparent, and thereby unite men in the developement of the purposes which you have already so essentially forwarded, we request you will publish this letter as introductory to our papers, which it is our wish could be presented to the public in an unbroken chain, just as we ask leave to offer them.

We are most respectfully, Sir,

Your obedient humble Servants.

DAVID TUCKER,
WILLIAM PIERCE,
JOHN RUGGLES, JUN. } Selectmen of Milton.

BENJAMIN RUSSELL, ESQ. *Boston.*

The proceedings of the town have been the subject of two communications to his Excellency, the Governor of the State, of which the following was the first;

TO HIS EXCELLENCY

CHRISTOPHER GORE, ESQ.

GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Milton, 23d Sept. 1809.

AMIST the important cares of the State, your known condescension to encourage every attempt which may have a tendency to public good, will plead your indulgence for the wish of us, the Selectmen of Milton, to approach your Excellency, and lay before him the details of the transactions which have taken place in our town respecting Cow Pox, or Kine Pock inoculation.

In the early part of the summer a number of cases of Small Pox having occurred in the neighbourhood of Boston, a considerable degree of anxiety prevailed amongst the inhabitants of our town, and we thought it advisable on the 5th July to issue a warrant (of which we beg leave to offer a copy, being Paper No. A) to call a special town meeting on the 8th July, to take into consideration the propriety of adopting some measures for a general inoculation of the Cow Pox; the meeting accordingly took place, and by their resolves (as per copy, being Paper No. B) a committee of five was raised, and the business referred to them; the cause of humanity will always have to rejoice that its interests were essentially aided on that day by the lucid and philanthropic eloquence of our townsman, the Honourable Edward H. Robbins, Esq. Various doubts had been expressed at the town meeting as to the efficacy of the preventive, and the committee, conceiving that faith alone could be the foundation of the work they had in view, procured some medical certificates, got them printed, and on Sunday the 16th July, after an introductory prayer, they were communicated from the

pulpit by the Rev. Mr. Gile, and a copy was distributed to every pew; they appeared to establish that full conviction which could have been anticipated from the respectability of the names affixed to them; of this printed communication we beg leave to annex a copy, being paper No. 1.

Dr. Amos Holbrook, whose heart was engaged in this work from its origin, liberally joined with the committee to carry it into execution; after dividing the town into districts, and warning the inhabitants from house to house, by presenting them a paper, of which hereafter a copy, being Paper No. C, the inoculation begun on the 20th July at the school house on Milton hill, and in the course of a few days it was completed, offering for result three hundred and thirty-seven individuals inoculated, of all ages from two months to upwards of seventy years; being more than one fourth of the whole population of the town.

One Selectman and the Committee attended the Doctor at the meetings, and notes were taken of the names and ages of the inoculated, and of the result of their inoculation.

We have to be thankful, that amongst that large number of both sexes and all ages, no sickness has interfered during the course of their vaccination. The inhabitants appeared pleased and so willing to attend, that we have reason to believe there is not at this moment twenty individuals in Milton, liable to the Small Pox.

The benefit obtained was great, the labour had been short, pleasurable, and easy; our minds anticipated the possibility of a readiness with our brethren in the neighbouring towns to adopt similar measures, and we were prompted to address communications to that effect to fourteen towns in the county of Norfolk, a copy of which we take the liberty to present to your Excellency, being Paper No. 2. We have the happiness to learn that in consequence of them about three hundred persons have been inoculated with the Cow Pox, in Dorchester, and that Dedham, Stoughton, Canton, and Sharon have called town meetings, adopted public

measures, and raised committees to secure their inhabitants.

On the 26th August, being the adjournment of our town meeting, the committee made a report, of which herewith a copy, being Paper No. 3. A due indulgence for the feelings of our people has suggested the idea of testing with Small Pox inoculation, such of the individuals who have gone regularly through the Kine Pock, as may desire it; this measure is in contemplation for the beginning of October next, and for further particulars we beg leave to refer to Paper No. D and No. E; after it has taken place our views are, to have a town register made up, wherein shall be recorded the names of the three hundred and thirty-seven individuals inoculated in July, and to obtain a vote for a periodical inoculation to take place in every year to come, and to raise a standing committee to carry the same into effect; thus we hope, under the Divine blessing which has so peculiarly marked our progress until now, to be able to keep henceforth our town clear, and strong as a fortress against the pestilence.

As we have proceeded upon this work our minds have become strongly impressed with the beautiful simplicity of the preventive against one of the most awful scourges which were permitted to afflict mankind; it strikes us, that to leave the development of its merciful benefits to the weakness of private efforts, necessarily slow and unconnected, would be short of that gratitude we owe; whilst an humble attempt to organise a plan calculated to make man enjoy the blessing in the most general way, might be an offering acceptable to the Merciful Giver, and thereby permit hopes of success to all men engaged in its prosecution; the institution in every town—of PUBLIC MEASURES—of a YEARLY INOCULATION—of a REGISTER—and of a STANDING COMMITTEE OF ACTIVE ZEALOUS MEN, would be likely to procure the same result we have experienced in Milton; an organization which has been found to work so easy in one town, would be as likely to prove so in another.

Without town measures, it seems, that the benefit could never be carried through the whole mass of society.

Without a register there could be no awful responsibility for the ignorant or the careless inoculator; for tho' beautifully simple this preventive, yet the characters must be cautiously attended to by men of knowledge and experience, lest it should be abused, and its simplicity and mildness, instead of facilitating its progress, should prove through human infirmity, an obstacle to retard it.

Without a yearly inoculation in every town, there could be no permanency; the possibility of banishing for ever the Small Pox, lost; and the next generations left to reflect on our improvidence; whilst yearly spring inoculations, in every town, would keep the spirit of the thing alive amongst the people; Mothers would hasten to bring their new offspring to the beneficient institution; the higher ranks of society would delight in supporting, and accrediting the same, by joining their neighbours in attendance; and the public opinion so formed, as to be made to reflect upon the neglect or even the delay.

Without a standing committee of zealous active men in every town, the attendance of the inhabitants would be likely to prove incomplete; a committee will divide a town into districts, each man attend to one, they will call at every house, and from habits of familiar intercourse, they will have it in their power, either upon a general or upon the successive yearly inoculations, to turn out the whole population exposed. By being made permanent, their views will acquire steadiness, the confidence of the people will increase in them, and their course become stronger as they proceed; they will be made the zealous, the faithful centinels to guard the fold against invasion.

This simple organization if made known as experimented in our village, and aided by legislative interference, might be suited to the other parts of the state; a perfect uniform mode of inoculation might pervade

the whole ; the committees by the organs of their secretaries might easily communicate and assist each other with matter, Doctors, &c. Taking the state at large, it is presumed, upon a moderate computation, that one third of its population is at this moment liable to the Small Pox ; near two hundred thousand individuals exposed ! to attempt to secure them is the object ; could a more interesting undertaking be offered to the consideration of reflecting minds ? to the attention of our rulers ? could there be one more likely to obtain favour with the Beneficent Ruler of all, if prosecuted with purity and firmness.

The benevolent good men, who by their studies and practice make it the business of their lives to alleviate the sufferings of mankind ; who have traced and followed the Cow Pox through its various progress ; who have generously strove to proclaim its efficacy to the destruction of one of the lucrative branches of their profession ; who condescended to help and assist this our trial in its timid origin ; those good men would assist and inform such of their country brethren who have not had the opportunity to acquire a sufficient experience of the disease, and furnish them with the pure materials.

That most respectable and deserving order of society, the clergy, always ready to promote good, would lend their inestimable assistance to the work. Good men of all classes, however different in opinion upon other subjects, would join here in every town ; they would unite their energies, and their hands with rapidity would be made to erect an edifice, under whose shelter their minds would find refreshment as long as sensibility should remain.

Thus the pestilential foe might be subdued, thus Massachusetts, its people, its militia, and its navy might be made safe against its destructive power ; public safety and private happiness become the result, and our happy land distinguished amongst the nations of the earth, testify a proper sense of the blessing by improving it, to the benefit of its people upon a new and comprehensive scale.

Our hearts are warmed with the wish of prosecuting this undertaking; the communications made to the towns of our neighbourhood, it was our first impression to extend to all the towns of the commonwealth, but we must recoil upon ourselves with the sentiment of being too weak instruments; before we proceed further, we feel ambitious, from your Excellency to obtain strength; and by his condescending to accept of this, our offering of a work of love, permit this undertaking to go forth under the patronage of the Governor of Massachusetts.

That your government may be prosperous, and your private ways happy, is the sincere wish of your Excellency's most respectful fellow citizens

DAVID TUCKER
WILLIAM PIERCE
JOHN RUGGLES, Jun.

Copy of the warrant, issued on the 5th July, 1809, to call a town meeting on the 8th ditto.

It is to be noticed that Mr. John Ruggles, Jun'r. one of the constables, being at the time prevented by sickness to attend, the whole duty devolved on Capt. Rufus Peirce, and time pressing, part of the inhabitants were warned in the night.

(Paper No. A.)

Milton, 5th July, 1809.

To Capt. Rufus Peirce one of the Constables of the town of Milton.

You are hereby required in the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to summon and notify the freeholders and other inhabitants of said town, qualified by law to vote in town meetings, to assemble at the meeting house, on Saturday the 8th instant, at 3 o'clock, in the afternoon, to act on the following articles, namely,

1st. To choose a Moderator.

2d. To see if the town will adopt any measures for inoculating with the Kine Pock, such individuals as have never had the Small Pox.

Given under our hands and seals.

DAVID TUCKER,
WILLIAM PEIRCE,
JOHN RUGGLES, Jun'r. } *Selectmen of said town.*

(Paper No. B.)

At a legal town meeting, held in Milton, on Saturday, July 8th, 1809.

Deacon David Tucker was chosen Moderator.

Article 2d. To see if the town will adopt any measures for inoculating with the Kine Pock such individuals as have never had the Small Pox.

Voted, That Messrs. OLIVER HOUGHTON,
RUFUS PEIRCE,
JOHN MARK GOURGAS,
JASON HOUGHTON,
JEDIDIAH ATHERTON.

be a committee to take into consideration, the foregoing article, and adopt such measures, as they shall judge proper, and report at the adjournment of the meeting.

Voted, That this meeting be adjourned to the last Saturday in August next, at 5 o'clock, P. M. unless said committee shall judge it expedient to call the inhabitants together at an earlier period, by posting up notifications at the meeting house doors.

JAMES FOORD, *Town Clerk.*

(Paper No. 1.)

To the Inhabitants of the town of Milton.

At the Town-Meeting, held on Saturday, 8th inst. some ideas having been expressed, the tendency of which might be to create doubts in the minds of the inhabitants of the town, as to the efficacy of the Kine Pock, in being a perfect and complete preservative against the Small Pox; the Committee have thought it their duty to collect such evidence as might dispel error and establish truth; and without waiting for the more formal opportunity fixed by their commission, to adopt this more expeditious mode of communication.

The following are copies of the certificates which the Committee have procured from some of the most respectable physicians in Boston, and its vicinity. To

them the Committee desire to take this opportunity respectfully to address their acknowledgements for the readiness with which they have granted said certificates, as well as for the generous and benevolent good wishes they have expressed for the success of any plan calculated to diffuse the blessing of the Cow Pock.

Certificate, No. 1.

"THIS MAY CERTIFY, that I have for many years been in the practice, at various times, of vaccinating patients with Cow Pox, and many of which I have attended with that disease, have been since tested with Small Pox, without receiving that disease, and am fully and satisfactorily convinced, not only from my own observation, but from the most unquestionable and best authorities in Europe, which have been received in America, and from the experiment having been made frequently, in almost every civilized nation on the globe, that when any person has had the genuine Cow Pox, he or she is never liable to receive the Small Pox afterwards; for which reason I think it a duty for every medical man, and every man of benevolence and philanthropy, to recommend the diffusion and spread of the Kine Pox, to be performed in a regular method, and with the necessary knowledge to ascertain the true and genuine disease, without which there is the greatest deception, and leaves the patient liable, whenever exposed, to receive the Small Pox, and perhaps to his fatal disappointment.

"AMOS HOLBROOK, *Physician.*

"To the Committee of the town of Milton elected to take into consideration the subject of vaccination.

"*Milton*, 12*th July*, 1809.

Certificate No. 2.

"THIS MAY CERTIFY, that I have experienced the efficacy of the Cow Pock in preventing the Small Pox, since the year 1800, and have inoculated many hundred persons with Cow Pock; some of whom have been repeatedly exposed to the natural Small Pox and others have been inoculated with the Small Pox matter, none

of whom have had the Small Pox after being vaccinated. I further am convinced, that if the Cow Pox matter is taken at the proper time by a person conversant with the disease, that it never produces any other disease than the Cow Pock, and that no ulcer is the consequence. I also can recommend the diffusion of the disease of Cow Pock at this time, as now is the time of danger from the Small Pox; and would observe that as a general apprehension of danger from the Small Pox is now excited, I inoculate many every day, and the disease is of the most benign kind, and no person has been prevented from attending to his usual business.

"ISAAC RAND, M. D.

"*The Committee of the town of Milton, for vaccination.*

"*Boston*, 11, 1809."

Certificate No. 3.

"THIS MAY CERTIFY, that I have long experienced the efficacy of the Cow Pox, in preventing the infection of the Small Pox—am in the daily use of that method of prevention—which, in my opinion, if properly managed, is as certain as death.

"SAMUEL DANFORTH, M. D.

"*Boston, July* 13, 1809."

Certificate No. 4.

"I ALSO CERTIFY, that I am fully convinced of the efficacy of the Cow Pox as a preventive of the Small Pox; and am certain that nothing more is necessary to render inoculation for the former an absolute security against the latter, than proper caution that the matter is of the right kind, and that the incision has proper marks of Cow Pox.

JOHN WARREN, M. D.

"*Boston, July* 13, 1809."

Certificate No. 5.

"I DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that I have been in the practice of inoculating with the Cow Pox matter ever since it has been known in this country; that I have

never known any ill effects attending it, and have no doubt of its being an effectual security against the infection of the Small Pox, provided the Cow Pox inoculation has taken effect, which cannot be mistaken by any judicious person, who has been conversant in the practice of inoculating with the Cow Pox.

"JAMES LLOYD, M. D.

"*Boston, July* 13, 1809."

Certificate No. 6.

"*To the Committee of the town of Milton, appointed to consider the subject of vaccination.*

"GENTLEMEN,

"Respecting the questions put to me relative to the practice and efficacy of vaccination, I answer, that I never have had the least reason to doubt, but that the Kine Pox effectually and forever secures a person from Small Pox.

"The only reason why I tested my own children with Small Pox, was not to satisfy myself, but the public. I did it, in regard to my own children, to shew my entire confidence in the practice. To satisfy others, I inoculated them with Small Pox, twice after the period of seven years had elapsed.—This was done to convict the faithless and to confound the mischievous.

"The matter may become vitiated, producing a spurious pustule, through ignorance and inexperience of the inoculator; but I have never known any other disease communicated by the Kine Pock inoculation.

"The inoculation is safe and efficacious at any season, at any age, and under any circumstances, in either sex. Labouring men and mechanics need not abstain from their usual employment—Children may go to school throughout the whole process.

"Every good man will forward this benevolent plan, especially as there is now some danger of the Small Pox extending itself in a neighbouring town. The proper time for resisting an enemy is when he approaches our borders, and has attacked our citizens.

"I here subjoin a comparative view of the *Natural* Small Pox, the *Inoculated* Small Pox, and the *Kine*

Pock. It contains serious facts, which it is the duty of every parent to consider, and act according to his feelings :

VACCINA, OR KINE POCK.

A comparative view of the Natural Small Pox, Inoculated Small Pox, and Kine Pock.

Natural Small Pox.	Inoculated Small Pox.	Kine Pock.
A Contagious Disease. One in six, who take it, dies.	Contagious. One in 300 dies.	Noncontagious. Never fatal.
It is like an attempt to cross a dangerous stream by swimming, where one in six perishes !	It is like crossing the stream in an old leaky boat, where one in 300 perishes !	It is like crossing the stream on a new and safe bridge.

" For further particulars, I refer to some printed directions dated July 3d, 1809.

" OBSERVATIONS.

" 1. It occasions no other disease. On the contrary, it has often been known to improve health ; and to remedy those diseases, under which the patient before labored.

" 2. It leaves behind no blemish, but a *blessing ;* one of the greatest ever bestowed on man ; *a perfect security against the future infection of the Small Pox.*

" BENJ. WATERHOUSE.

" *Cambridge, July* 9, 1809."

To consider of the most efficacious measures the town may adopt, to offer security to such of the inhabitants as are now exposed, at a very trifling expense, and to make them

" *Cross the dangerous stream upon the new and safe bridge*"

provided for them by divine goodness ; to insure and accelerate the general operation of such a blessing, by

leading them over, *in one body, with one accord,* and protected by professional skill of the first eminence, is the object strongly impressed upon the minds of your committee, who will communicate, in the course of a few days, the further arrangements they are about to complete.

OLIVER HOUGHTON,
RUFUS PIERCE,
JOHN MARK GOURGAS,
JASON HOUGHTON,
JEDEDIAH ATHERTON,
} *Committee.*

Milton, July 15*th*, 1809.

Copy of the paper which the members of the Committee exhibited to the inhabitants, when they warned them from house to house, being

(Paper No. C.)

Milton, 17*th July*, 1809.

The committee chosen by the town of Milton on the 8th instant, relative to the kine pock innoculation, have so far attended to that subject, as to agree with doctor Amos Holbrook to inoculate any of the inhabitants of said town for twenty five cents each.

The inhabitants of the east part of the town to assemble at the east school house, on Milton hill, on Thursday, the 20th instant, at 9 o'clok, A. M.

The inhabitants of the Scotch woods, to meet at their school house, on Friday, the 21st instant, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

The inhabitants of the west part of said town to meet at the house of James Foord, Esqr's. on Brush hill, on Saturday 22d instant, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

We the subscribers, inhabitants of Milton, wishing to improve the opportunity now offered us, do hereby agree to bring to one of the above named places, the number of persons annexed to our respective names.

Copy of the circular letter, addressed to the Ministers and Selectmen of fourteen towns in the county of Norfolk, to wit:

BROOKLYN,	MEDFIELD,	RANDOLPH,
BRAINTREE,	NEEDHAM,	STOUGHTON,
CANTON,	QUINCY,	SHARRON,
DORCHESTER,	ROXBURY,	WEYMOUTH.
DEDHAM,	FOXBURY,	

(Paper No. 2.)

To the Ministers and Selectmen of the Town of

Milton, 14th August, 1809.

Honored Sirs,

We take the liberty to acquaint you, that under the impression of anxiety lately experienced in our town, from a number of cases of small pox having occurred in the neighborhood of Boston, we thought it adviseable to call a special town meeting, on the 8th July, to take into consideration the propriety of adopting some measures for a general inoculation of the Cow Pox; a committee of five was then and there chosen, and the business referred to them. At the town meeting some doubts having been expressed as to the efficacy of the Cow Pox in being a perfect preventive against small pox infection, the committee procured some certificates to that effect, got them printed, and on Sunday, 16th July, after an introductory prayer they were communicated from the pulpit, by the Rev. Mr. Gile, and a copy was distributed to every pew; they appeared to establish that full conviction, which could have been anticipated from the respectability of the names affixed to them. Doctor Amos Holbrook, with whom the committee had conferred, liberally joined with them to carry the business into execution, and after dividing the town into districts, the inoculation of the kine pock was offered upon terms almost gratuitous to such of the inhabitants as would choose to accept of the benefit.

The first meeting took place at the school house, on Milton hill, on the 20th July, and in the course of a few

days the inoculation was compleated, offering for result 337 individuals inoculated, of all ages from two months to upwards of seventy years, being more than one fourth of the whole population of the town,and with few exceptions the whole of the individuals which were liable to the small pox. It is remarkable that there were only nine cases where the inoculation missed, and which being tried a second time, proved successful; but what is more worthy of notice, is that amongst that large number of both sexes, and all ages, no sickness has interfered during the course of their vaccination, and with the exception of about eight cases, where the symptoms have appeared more strongly marked, and necessitated the individuals to lay by, and give up their usual employment for a day or two, all the others have been so mildly affected, as to have been able to attend without interruption to the busy and laborious calls of the season.

We think it needful further to mention, that during the inoculation twenty in individuals, who at a previous period had either inoculated themselves, or got themselves inoculated, by persons not professionally acquainted with the Cow Pox, applied to the doctor to undergo a regular inoculation, and thereby be put to the test; seven of them had then the regular disease, thus offering a proof that it had never taken place before, and that their lives were therefore doubly exposed from the false security which their first inoculation was calculated to create; the practice above referred to cannot be too severely reprobated, as it thoughtlessly exposes the lives of many, and has besides an evident tendency to affect the credit due to the kine pock inoculation if properly performed; there are niceties belonging to that inoculation for the choice of the matter, and the various charcters of the disease too delicate to be left to the judgment of any other but the professional man acquainted with it from his own experience. The interesting transation so far compleated with us, will receive a final sanction by the opening of a town register, wherein the names of all the persons that

have gone regularly through the disorder will be entered; to such the doctor has pledged himself for their safety against the infection of the small pox. The whole of this work has gone through our town with so much ease and unanimity, the people have come forth so willingly, and the satisfaction amongst them appears so general, that at the same time that we reflect gratefully upon our own safety, we cannot but feel an anxious desire that the benefit thereof should be extended to our brethren in the neighbouring towns; under that impression we have taken the liberty to address this letter to you, and to inclose therein six copies of the certificates above alluded to.

We beg leave seriously to call your immediate attention thereto, and solemnly to remind you that the DESTROYER is still lurking near you, to find who, and how many he can devour; recall the feelings of your hearts when you saw your children, your friends, or your neighbours labouring under that pestilence, the small pox; the means of security are within your easy reach, and the expense a trifle.

Why should you not do, as we have done?

However laudable and useful are private exertions to extend Cow Pock inoculation, the good resulting from them is necessarily limited and but temporary; town measures alone would be calculated to carry the benefit through the whole mass of society, and by the institution in every town of a periodical yearly inoculation the operation of this great blessing would be rendered permanent from generation to generation. A quantity of genuine Kine Pock matter has been carefully gathered from our town inoculation under the direction of Doctor A. Holbrook, in whose hands it remains deposited, for the express purpose of being offered to you free of any expence, and if it is in our power to confer any further information, or in any ways to contribute to the attainment of your views we hold ourselves, our doctor, and our committee men at your disposal, being all cordially

engaged in the work. With good wishes we remain respectfully Honored Sirs,

Your obedient humble servants,

DAVID TUCKER,
WILLIAM PIERCE,
JOHN RUGGLES, Jun. } Selectmen of Milton.

N.B—The Ministers of most of these fourteen towns communicated this letter to their people from the pulpit after divine service on the next Lord's day after its reception.

Copy of the recommendation attached to the foregoing letter from some of the principal inhabitants of Milton.

The general town inoculation of the Cow Pox which has taken place in Milton, having met with our intire approbation from the perfect security thereby conferred upon the inoculated against small pox infection, the case with which it has been carried through, and the smallness of the expense, we cordially join with the selectmen in recommending to other towns the adoption of a similar measure.

SAMUEL GILE, (Rev.)
JOSEPH BABCOCK,
WILLIAM BABCOCK,
DANIEL BRIGGS,
I. SMITH BOIES,
ISAAC DAVENPORT,
JAMES FOORD,
WARREN PIERCE (Rev.)
EDW. H. ROBBINS (Hon)
JOHN RUGGLES,
JOSEPH ROWE,
JOHN ROWE,
JOHN SWIFT,
MOSES WHITNEY.

Copy of the first report of the committee for vaccination.

(Paper No. 3.)

Milton, August 26, 1809.

The committee elected 8th. July last, on the subject of the Cow Pox, ask leave to report—That they have attended to the business assigned them, by communicating to the inhabitants of the town certificates procured from some of the most respectable physicians in Boston and its vicinity calculated to remove all doubts that the Kine Pock if really had, is a perfect preventive of the Small Pox ; a copy of said certificates and the communication accompanying them is herewith pre-

sented as an essential part of the present report.—From their own conviction of the infallibility of that mild preventive against Small Pox infection, they have recommended it warmly to such of the inhabitants as were liable to that cruel pestilence. They contracted with Doctor Amos Holbrook, to inoculate and carry through said Kine Pock, any of the said inhabitants who would attend for that purpose at either of three places, appointed therefor by the committee, for twenty five cents each, to be paid by the individuals inoculated; and Dr. Holbrook, on his part, does pledge himself that all persons inoculated by him, and by him declared to have had the genuine Cow Pox, are forever secure against the Small Pox.—The committee attended with the doctor at the times and places of inoculation, and three hundred and thirty-seven of the inhabitants were vaccinated, whose names, ages, and result of inoculation were duly noted.

As the committee have proceeded upon the commission they were entrusted with, the greatness of the charge has gradually developed itself to their minds; if it is fully considered, all must agree that too much caution and solemnity cannot be attached to the careful dispensation of a blessing, by which the lives of so considerable a proportion of the inhabitants of this town are to be secured against a destroying pestilence; they will not therefore, consider the trust they have accepted as fully discharged, until some of the inhabitants who have been vaccinated shall have been tested with the Small Pox inoculation.—This test is not required to establish the faith of professional men, nor indeed of a great part of the community, but as general Kine Pock inoculation is yet a late introduction, they consider that an additional proof of its never failing power against Small Pox infection being obtained in the midst of the inhabitants of the town, and as it were under their own eyes will have a beneficent tendency, not only for Milton, but possibly also for the neighbouring towns.

The committee request, therefore, that the Selectmen be directed to call a special town meeting in September to see if the town will appoint a place or places where such

of those who have been inoculated with the Kine Pock under the inspection of this committee, as may so feel inclined, may repair to be tested by Small Pox inoculation. The committee will endeavour to have the business conducted with that caution and precision necessary to produce conviction, and they would submit the propriety of adjourning this meeting to the last monday in October, when they hope to offer the result of the measure in contemplation, and to present a register in which shall be recorded the names of all those who have been inoculated with the Cow Pock.

OLIVER HOUGTON,
RUFUS PEIRCE,
JOHN MARK GOURGAS,
JASON HOUGHTON,
JEDIDIAH ATHERTON,
} Committee.

Copy of the Warrant to call a special town meeting, to consider the propriety of inoculating with Small Pox for TEST *of some of the individuals vaccinated in July.*

(Paper No. D.)

To Captain Rufus Peirce and Mr. John Ruggles, jun. Constables of the town of Milton,

You are hereby required in the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, qualified by law to vote in town meetings, to assemble at the meeting house on Monday the 25th September, at 4 o'clock, P. M. to act on the following articles—namely,

1st. To choose a moderator.

2d. To see if the town will appoint a place or places where such inhabitants as are inclined may be inoculated with the Small Pox, who have been inoculated with the Kine Pox, under the immediate inspection of their committee; or what measures they will take relative to inoculating with the Small Pox.

Given under our hands and seal,

Milton, 28th August, 1809.

DAVID TUCKER,
WILLIAM PEIRCE,
JOHN RUGGLES, Jun.
} *Selectmen of said town.*

(Paper No. E.)

At a legal town meeting, held in Milton, on Monday 25th September, 1809.

Mr. Jason Houghton was chosen Moderator.

Voted, That the Committee appointed to carry into effect the inoculation of the Kine Pock, be directed at the expense of the town to procure a place for an Hospital in some remote part, to test with the Small Pox those individuals who are inclined, that have been inoculated with the Kine Pock, under the inspection of said committee by Dr. Amos Holbrook, and by him pronounced to have had the real disease, *and them only*.

Voted, That said committee be further directed not to suffer any person inoculated with the Small Pox to leave said hospital without a regular certificate from Dr. Amos Holbrook, and that no person be suffered to visit said hospital unless he obtains a permit from said Doctor, or from one of the members of the committee.

Voted, To adjourn this meeting to the last Monday in October, 5 of the clock, P. M.

JAMES FOORD, *Town Clerk*.

The following is the second communication which was made to his Excellency on the 7th. Nov. 1809—It contains the details of the TEST by Small Pox inoculation, to which the VACCINE POWER was submitted; and with the first communication, made on the 23d. September, includes the whole of the proceedings of the town to the above date.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY

CHRISTOPHER GORE, ESQ.

GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS.

BY THE FAVOR OF THE

HONORABLE EDWARD H. ROBBINS, ESQ.

THE FURTHER PROCEEDINGS

OF THE TOWN OF

MILTON,

ARE MOST RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.

(Paper No. 4.)

Being the copy of a letter addressed to the committees of the five towns which have united with Milton in the organization of a system to extend Cow Pox inoculation—to wit.

DORCHESTER—DEDHAM—CANTON—STOUGHTON—SHARON.

To the Hon. Committee for vaccination of ———

Milton, 5th Oct. 1809.

I take the liberty to acquaint you that pursuant to a town vote of the 25th September, arrangements have been made to test with Small Pox inoculation a number of children who were inoculated in July last with the Cow Pox. This test will take place at the House of Mr. Stephen Horton, on Tuesday the 10th inst. at 10 o'clock, A. M. and I am directed to invite as many of the gentlemen of the Honorable committee of ———

to attend, as can make it convenient. It is hoped that some of them will not fail to attend; this TEST is undertaken to contribute to establish the confidence due to Kine Pock inoculation, and public good may result from its being witnessed and attested to by the honorable committees of the towns which have united with Milton in the measure. The inoculation will be performed with dry matter, so that no possible danger of infection can arise. With much respect, I am,

By order of the committee,
OLIVER HOUGHTON, *Chairman.*

(Paper No. 5.)

Being the copy of a letter addressed to Benjamin Russell, Esq. President of the Honorable Board of Health of Boston.

To Benjamin Russell, Esq. President of the Honourable Board of Health, Boston,

Milton, 5th October, 1809.

I take the liberty to acquaint you that pursuant to a town vote of the 25th September arrangements have been made, to test with Small Pox inoculation, a number of children who were vaccinated in July last. This test will take place on Tuesday 10th instant, at 10 o'clock A. M. at the house of Mr. Stephen Horton, and I am directed to request you will do us the favor to attend.

This test is not undertaken with a view to supercede what was done before, directed by a mass of scientific knowledge, and the ardent desire to promote the interests of humanity; but the fact is that the efficacy of vaccination is by no means established yet to the full conviction of mankind, and repeated occular demonstration, although offered upon a small scale, attempted with small means, and within the narrow circle of a village, may possibly produce some good effects among our own inhabitants; and perhaps those of other towns; public good would certainly result from its being witnessed and attested to by a man whose able pen has

generously espoused the cause from its origin, and has persevered with unremitted and disinterested ardour; we, therefore, take the liberty to express a hope that you will condescend to attend the meeting, and with much pleasure, take this opportunity to offer our respectful acknowledgments for favors received. With much esteem, I am,

By order of the committee,
OLIVER HOUGHTON, *Chairman.*

Written notes of invitation to attend, were sent to a number of the principal inhabitants of the town, and on Tuesday the 10th October 1809, the meeting took place as intended; some unavoidable circumstances deprived the meeting of the presence of Benjamin Russell, Esq. President of the Honorable Board of Health of Boston, but, Richard D. Tucker, Esq. member of said Board and Doct. Thomas Welsh, their visiting physician, did the honor to attend.—Mr. OLIVER HOUGHTON, chairman of the committee, addressed the meeting in the following words—being

(Paper No. 6.)

GENTLEMEN,

THE committee would wish to be indulged to offer a few remarks upon the proceedings contemplated for this day.

After the vaccination which took place in this town the early part of the season was over, a number of individuals expressed a desire to have an opportunity of being tested by Small Pox inoculation; Dr. Amos Holbrook generously offered to gratify them, free of any expense, and the committee the more readily consented to make arrangements to that effect, that it would furnish an opportunity to add a new line to the large volume of evidence already obtained in various parts of the world, of the invariable and permanent efficacy of the Kine Pock against Small Pox infection, and that this additional evidence being offered in the midst of us, and under our immediate inspection would not only gratify the inhabitants of Milton and establish their con-

fidence, but also, perhaps, be productive of some good effects amongst our brethren in the neighbouring towns.

The Doctor and committee request that you will not argue from the cautious arrangements which have been made, that any doubts exist in their minds as to the result of the test; THE BLESSING IS SURE; error and inattention respecting the characters of the preventive, are and will continue to be the appendages, of human infirmity, BUT THE FAITHFULNESS OF THE MERCIFUL GIVER CANNOT FALL SHORT.

This hospital has been opened, and this caution used, that no uneasiness should possibly be created either in or out of the town; the mere idea of the Small Pox is, and ought to be awful, but the virus which is going to be inserted in the arms of these children, under different circumstances the seed of a pestilence, for them has lost its power, the rage of the foe for them is impotent, the armour which protects them is impenetrable.

The wish of Doctor Amos Holbrook was to have had them inoculated from a person actually under the operation of the Small Pox, and he applied to that effect to Dr. Thomas Welsh visiting physician to the Honorable Board of Health, of Boston, (for whose pleasing attention of personal attendance this day we beg to offer our acknowledgments) but from that gentleman's answer of the 2d. inst., and which is here for your perusal, it appears that there was no person with Small Pox at Rainsford Island; by the favor of Benjamin Russell. Esq. President of said Board, we have obtained from Dr. Welsh some dry matter of Small Pox; our townsman, Isaac Davenport, Esq. had the goodness to receive it in trust last Saturday from the doctor; in his custody it has remained ever since, and is there now, with a certificate from the Doctor that it is true and genuine Small Pox matter gathered by himself; the certificate and box containing the matter you will please to inspect; we are conscious of being faithful, but the object of our wishes is to obtain your conviction.

Sore arms these children must have, and so it would be every time that an inoculation with Small Pox, or

any other virulent matter, should be repeated, but this is all they have to dread.

Of the inoculation which you are going to witness, and its circumstances, we shall request you will sign a certificate; fifteen days would give a full opportunity to the variolous matter to act if the constitution had not been made proof against it; on the 25th instant, or first fair day after, if it should storm, we hope, therefore, you will do us the honour to meet again at the same place and hour, and grant us a second certificate, extremely pleasing to all parties concerned; may it contribute to make of this the *last inoculation* of the *Small Pox* in the commonwealth of Massachusetts.

(Paper No. 7.)

Being the copy of the Certificate of Dr. Thomas Welsh.

Boston, October 7th, 1809.

This is to certify, that at the request of Dr. Amos Holbrook, in behalf of the selectmen of Milton, and with the approbation of Benjamin Russell, Esq. President of the Hon. Board of Health of Boston, I have provided them with Small Pox matter, which I know to be good and genuine, having carefully gathered it myself; to serve for the purposes expressed in the town vote of the 25th September. I have put up said matter in a phial, made it up in a paper, and inclosed it in a box, sealed with my seal, the counterpart of which is affixed to my present signature, and delivered the same to Isaac Davenport, Esq.

THOMAS WELSH, (*Seal.*)

(Paper No. 8.)

Being a copy of the Certificate of the inoculation with Small Pox of twelve children for test of their Vaccination, in July last

Milton, October 10th. 1809.

We certify, that in consequence of an invitation from the committee for vaccination, we attended this

day at the house of Mr. Stephen Horton, appointed as an hospital by the town of Milton, and that the box containing a phial of Small Pox matter, provided for them by Dr. Thomas Welsh, visiting physician to the Hon. Board of Health, of Boston, alluded to in his certificate of the 7th instant, was delivered over to us by Isaac Davenport, Esq. for our inspection; that we found the seal affixed upon it by the Doctor entire, and to correspond with the seal of his certificate; that it was opened in our presence, and the phial enclosed was found sealed up in a paper; that the Small Pox matter was taken out of it before us, and inserted in our presence by Dr. Amos Holbrook in the arms of the following named individuals—to wit:

Samuel Alden,	*Charles Briggs,*
Joshua Briggs,	*Mary Ann Belcher,*
Benj. Church Briggs,	*Catharine Bent,*
Thomas Street Briggs,	*Susanna Bent,*
Martin Briggs,	*Ruth P. Horton,*
George Briggs,	*John Smith,*

represented to us to have been inoculated with Cow Pox in July last, under the inspection of said committee, and the attendance of Dr. Amos Holbrook, as appears by their town register produced to us; In witness whereof we have hereunto affixed our signatures.

RICHARD D. TUCKER, *Member of the Hon. Board of Health of Boston.*

THOMAS WELSH, *Visiting Physician to said Board.*

ABNER CRANE, NATHAN CRANE, } *Committee for Vaccination of Canton.*

DAVID TUCKER, WILLIAM PEIRCE, } *Selectmen of Milton.*

EDWARD H. ROBINS, *Hon.*

JOSEPH BABCOCK,
JOSEPH BENT,
JOSIAH BENT,
MOSES BELCHER,
DANIEL BRIGGS,
ISAAC DAVENPORT,
STEPHEN HORTON,
STEPHEN HORTON, Jun.
JOSEPH ROWE,
SETH SUMNER,
ELIJAH VOSE.

The twelve children being then inoculated with Small Pox, were delivered over, by the Chairman of the committee, to the charge of Mr. Stephen Horton, to whom was read and delivered a copy of the following paper—being

(Paper No. 9.)

To Mr. Stephen Horton, Hospital Master.

Milton, October 10, 1809.

Pursuant to a town vote of the 25th. September, and the arrangements made by the committee, the following named individuals who were vaccinated in July last, and at their own request have been inoculated this day for a test with Small Pox—to wit:

Samuel Alden,	*George Briggs,*
Joshua Briggs,	*Mary Ann Belcher,*
Benj. Church Briggs,	*Catharine Bent,*
Thomas Street Briggs,	*Susanna Bent,*
Martin Briggs,	*Ruth P. Horton,*
Charles Briggs,	*John Smith,*

are now delivered over to your care. You are hereby charged not to suffer any one of them to go from your house without being previously discharged by producing to you a certificate to that effect signed by Doctor Amos Holbrook and the Chairman of the committee.

Whilst they remain under your charge they are to keep within the boundaries fixed round the house by the committee, and submit to the regulations which you will think proper to establish for the order of the house.

Lastly, you will admit no strangers to visit the Hospital without a permit signed by the doctor, or by one of the members of the committee.

The above regulations have been voted by the town to prevent the possibility of any uneasiness, you will see, therefore, that they are strictly adhered to, and in order that all parties concerned may readily and chearfully conform thereto, as being *public orders* and not *private restrictions* you are desired to post up this paper in some conspicuous part of the house.

OLIVER HOUGHTON,
RUFUS PEIRCE,
JOHN MARK GOURGAS,
JASON HOUGHTON,
JEDEDIAH ATHERTON,
} *Committee.*

On the 25th. October 1809, according to appointment a number of respectable witnesses met at the aforesaid Hospital, and the twelve children after being examined by Doct. Amos Holbrook and exhibiting their arms with the scar of the Cow Pox inoculation, performed in July last, upon the one, and the mark of the impotent effort of the Small Pox matter introduced on the 10th. inst. upon the other, were discharged from the Hospital, and a certificate presented to each of them by the Doctor, the following is a copy of one of them—being :

(Paper No. 10.)

JOSHUA BRIGGS,

YOU ARE HEREBY discharged from the Hospital, where you and eleven more appointed to that purpose have offered to all men, by the TEST of Small Pox inoculation, a convincing proof of the never failing power of that mild preventive the Cow Pox.

WHILST you remain a living token of mercy, your mouth, will delight to testify your gratitude, for a blessing great as it is singular in its kind, so that the hearts of men may unite with yours in praise to the Almighty Giver.

AMOS HOLBROOK, *Physician*

OLIVER HOUGHTON, *Chairman of the Committee for VACCINATION.*

MILTON, *25th. Oct.* 1809.

(Paper No. 11.)

Being a COPY *of the certificate of the result of the* TEST.

Milton, 25th. Oct. 1809.

WE CERTIFY, that agreeable to the invitation of the committee for vaccination we attended this day at the house of Mr. Stephen Horton, appointed by the town as an Hospital, to test with Small Pox inoculation such of the individuals, desirous thereof, who were vaccinated in July last under the inspection of said committee, and the attendance of Dr. Amos Holbrook, and we found there the twelve children hereafter named—to wit :

Samuel Alden,	*Charles Briggs,*
Thomas Street Briggs,	*Mary Ann Belcher,*
Benj. Church Briggs,	*Catharine Bent,*
Joshua Briggs,	*Susanna Bent,*
Martin Briggs,	*Ruth C. Horton,*
George Briggs,	*John Smith,*

who were inoculated with Small Pox matter by Dr. A. Holbrook on the 10th instant, as appears by a certificate of that date, signed by eighteen witnesses; that we found their inoculation had not taken; that the inflammation occasioned to their arms by the introduction of ~~purulent~~ variolous matter had subsided, the scabs disappeared, and the children in perfect health; whereby we rejoice that this additional proof should have been obtained of the never failing power of that mild preventive, the Cow Pox, against Small Pox infection, and gladfully have granted the present certificate, with an ardent desire, that wherever the same may be promulgated it may contribute to rouse the souls of men to zealous exertions for the organization of a regular system to extend the blessing, and thus to attempt to secure our happy land against one of the greatest scourges that ever afflicted mankind.

BENJAMIN RUSSELL, *President of the Hon. Board of Health of Boston,*
GEO. G. LEE, *Member of said Board,*
THOMAS WELSH, *Visiting Physician to ditto.*
NATHAN CRANE, } *Committee for Vaccination*
ABNER CRANE, } *of Canton.*
SAMUEL GILE, *Rev.*
JOSEPH BABCOCK,
DANIEL BRIGGS,
ISAAC DAVENPORT,
STEPHEN HORTON,
ELIJAH VOSE.

The gentlemen who honoured the meeting with their attendance were presented with a card expressive of the result of the test.

It has no merit but what the hearts of benevolent men will attach to it, and under that impression the acceptance of your Excellency is most respectfully requested of a copy thereof—being

(Paper No. 12.)

MILTON, 25th OCT. 1809.

THE twelve children whose names are written on the back of this card were vaccinated at the town inoculation in July last; they were tested by Small Pox inoculation on the 10th instant, and discharged this day from the Hospital, after offering to the World, in the presence of most respectable witnesses, who honored Milton with their attendance on that occasion, an additional evidence of the never failing power of that mild preventive, the the Cow Pox against Small Pox infection; a blessing great as it is singular in its kind, whereby the hearts of men should be elevated in praise to the Almighty Giver.

AMOS HOLBROOK, *Physician,*
OLIVER HOUGHTON, *Chairman of the Committee.*
for VACCINATION.

N. B. The names of the twelve children are the same as before.

The town meetings per adjournment from 8th July and 25th September, upon the subject of vaccination, took place as per appointment, on the 30th October, 1809, when the committee presented their final report to the town; the copy of which here follows, being

(Paper No. 13.)

Milton, 30th Oct. 1809.

The committee for vaccination ask leave to report, that in conformity with the vote of the town dated 25th September last, they contracted with Mr. Stephen Horton to take charge of such individuals vaccinated at the town inoculation in July last, as might be desirous to be tested by Small Pox inoculation, and that the following twelve voluntarily offered themselves, and were the only such persons qualified by the town vote, the committee could find desirous of being tested—to wit,

Samuel Alden,
Joshua Briggs,
Thomas Street Briggs,
Benjamin Church Briggs,
Martin Briggs,
George Briggs,
Charles Briggs,
Susanna Bent,
Catharine Bent,
Mary A. Belcher,
Ruth P. Horton,
John Smith.

That Dr. Amos Holbrook, at the request of the committee, and in behalf of the Selectmen, applied to Dr. Thomas Welsh, Visiting Physician to the Honorable Board of Health of Boston, for Small Pox matter ;— that there being no person with that disease at Rainsford's Island, as appears by a letter from that gentleman dated 2d instant, and which is in the hands of the chairman of this committee, they accepted his offer of some dry matter in the manner, and with the caution exhibited by his certificate, dated 7th instant, (being Paper No. 7.)

That said committee invited respectable witnesses to attend the inoculation with Small Pox, for test of the above named individuals, which took place on the 10th instant, as per certificate of that date, (being Paper No. 8.)

That, on the 25th instant, the said twelve individuals were discharged from the Hospital by Dr. Amos Holbrook, after having testified by the result of their inoculation, the impossibility of receiving Small Pox infection, as per certificate of that date, (being Paper No. 11.)

For further particulars the committee beg leave to refer to the annexed copies of the above mentioned three certificates, and of the discharge given to the twelve individuals tested.

They also wish to express a due sense of the attention bestowed on the town, by the ready and pleasing attendance of the President and Members of the Honorable Board of Health of Boston, and their physician, Dr. Thomas Welsh, in compliance with the invitation given them by the committee.

The committee have the honour to present to the town the handsome offering received at the hands of their townsman, the Hon. Edward H. Robbins, Esq. of a blank book to serve as a town record, wherein the committee shall cause to be registered the names, ages, and result of inoculation of the three hundred and thirty-seven individuals vaccinated in July last, under the inspection of this committee, and the attendance of Dr. Amos Holbrook, and consign it within a short delay to the care of the Town Clerk ; they annex a copy

of the letter (being Paper No. 14) which accompanied the present, from a wish of doing justice to the feelings of their fellow townsmen, and with the persuasion that the benevolence which dictated it cannot but essentially serve the cause which the town has so warmly espoused; the committee have taken the liberty, since they received the elegant volume, to have the name of the Donor added to it, feeling that to the hearts engaged in this undertaking it will be its most pleasing ornament.

Of the demand of Mr. Stephen Horton for the hire of his house, and the interruption of his usual avocation, the committee herewith present his bill. It is but justice in them to say, that Mr. Horton has deserved well of the town by the faithful discharge of the trust he accepted, and that the twelve children tested will always remember with happiness the few days spent under his roof.

The committee having completed, as far as they were able, the object of their commission, they wish to conclude by submitting to the town the propriety of a vote to the following effect—to wit:

The institution of periodical town inoculation of the Cow Pox, or Kine Pock, to take place henceforth in every year to come; and of a permanent committee, whose members be elected annually at the same time as other town officers, to carry the same into effect; and to appoint one this day to stand until another shall be chosen; with injunction to said committee, as the proceedings of the town appear to have met with the approbation of our fellow citizens to use their best endeavours for the spread of so invaluable a blessing.

OLIVER HOUGHTON,
RUFUS PEIRCE,
JOHN MARK GOURGAS,
JASON HOUGHTON,
JEDIDIAH ATHERTON,
} *Committee.*

(Paper No. 14.)

Being the copy of the letter addressed by the Honorable Edward H. Robbins, to the committee for Vaccination.

Milton, 26th. Oct. 1809.

GENTLEMEN of the committee on the subject of Vaccination in Milton.

HAVING noticed in your report to the town, of your general course of proceedings, your intention to furnish a register to contain the names of all such persons as have been the subject of successful inoculation for the Kine Pock thro' your humane and faithful attention, it will give me some satisfaction to relieve you from any expense necessarily attending that arrangement; but great pleasure will result to me from participating in a small degree in aid of so benevolent a design in which you have been so peseveringly and effectually engaged; and I know of no way in which the cause can be better served than by transmitting the evidence of your proceedings to posterity, and preserving them in such manner (unconnected with other common transactions for this greatly transcends them) as shall be for the general good of mankind. I therefore, request you to accept a blank book for the purpose of inserting such transactions, and making such entries as you shall think proper relating to the proceedings aforesaid, and beg you to accept my grateful acknowledgements to you individually for the disinterested exertions you have made in this undertaking, and I earnestly pray the Author of all Good to bestow his blessings on you. I am with great sincerity, your friend and fellow townsman,

EDWARD H. ROBBINS.

Mr. OLIVER HOUGHTON,
Capt. RUFUS PEIRCE,
Mr. JOHN M. GOURGAS,
Mr. JASON HOUGHTON and
Mr. JEDIDIAH ATHERTON.

Copy of the votes passed by the town on Monday, 30th. Oct. 1809, being the adjourment of the meetings of the 8th. July, and 25th. Sept. and which relating both equally to the same object are here offered under the head of

(Paper No. 15.)

At a Town Meeting held in Milton, by adjournment, 30th October, 1809, at 4 o'clock, P. M.

Mr. JASON HOUGHTON, Moderator.

Committee for Vaccination presented a report as per entry in the town book.

Voted, That sa direport be accepted.

Voted, That there shall be an annual inoculation of the Cow Pox to take place henceforth in every year to come in the month of June.

Voted, Thas there shall be a permanent committee whose members shall be elected annually at the same meeting other town officers are appointed :

That the committee cause public notice to be given by posting up notifications at the meeting-house doors, two sundays previous to the day fixed for the inoculation ; that they warn the inhabitants from house to house at least four days before hand, and that they use their influence to have all individuals liable to the Small Pox turn out ; to prevail upon mothers to bring forth their offspring ever so young, and to invite occasional strangers and labourers in the town to partake of the benefit.

That the meeting-house be the place where the vaccination be performed, conceiving that the act by which people of all ages and conditions are brought together gratefully to receive the benefit of so singular and admirable a blessing, cannot be otherwise than an acceptable offering to the Merciful Being whom they are in the habit of worshipping there.

That the inoculation be presided by one of the selectmen at least, and attended by all the members of the committee ; that they invite to join in attendance such characters whose presence may contribute to confer on the meeting that respectability to which its object gives t a title to.

That they faithfully record in the town register the names, ages, and result of inoculation of every individual vaccinated, and that they deliver over the register to the town Clerk within ten days after the inoculation be completed.

Voted, That whereas the proceedings of the town appear to have met the approbation of their fellow citizens, the above committee are directed to use their best endeavors to contribute to the general spread of so inestimable a blessing as the Cow Pox, or Kine Pock inoculation, with power to organize themselves in that manner which they will deem best calculated to that purpose, and that they do report occasionally the result of their proceedings.

Voted, That the members of the committee for vaccination, appointed 8th July last—to wit,

OLIVER HOUGHTON,
RUFUS PEIRCE,
JOHN MARK GOURGAS,
JASON HOUGHTON,
JEDEDIAH ATHERTON,

be continued with the addition of Dr. AMOS HOLBROOK, until others are chosen to fill their place.

Then the meeting was dissolved.

A true abstrat of record.

JAMES FOORD, *Town Clerk.*

At a Town Meeting held in Milton, by adjournment 30th October, 1809, at 5 o'clock P. M.

Mr. JASON HOUGHTON, Moderator.

Committee for Vaccination, presented a Report, as per entry in the town book.

Voted, That said report be accepted.

Voted, That the thanks of this meeting be presented to the Hon. Edward H. Robbins, Esq. for his early support to the undertaking now under consideration of this meeting, and for the handsome present of a book to serve for a town Register, wherein the names of the individuals vaccinated at the town innoculation in July last shall be registered, or any other transactions relating thereto ; in conformity to the intentions expressed

in his letter of the 26th instant addressed to the committee; and that the committee be directed to present him with a copy of the votes of this day.

Voted, That the thanks of this meeting be presented to Dr. Amos Holbrook, for the benevolent liberality of his proceedings in the Kine Pock transactions of the town, and that the committee present him with a copy of the votes of this day.

Voted, That the thanks of this meeting be given to the committee for their exertions in promoting the general spread of that great blessing, the inoculation of the Kine Pock.

Voted, That the committee be directed to present the Hon. Board of Health of Boston a copy of the votes of this day, as an acknowledgment of their polite attention to the town.

Voted, That the Selectmen direct the Treasurer to pay Mr. Stephen Horton's bill, presented this day by the committee for vaccination.

Then the meeting was dissolved.

A true abstract of record.

JAMES FOORD, *Town Clerk.*

N. B. The votes of both the above meetings are offered as an *abstract of record*, for the reason that in the town book, the report of the committee and the votes are entered connected together; it has appeared a preferable order to present them separate, arranged as above; they together constitute the record as it stands in the book.

Note of the Committee.

An essential clause was omitted in the report of the committee, which they intend to submit to the approbation of the town, at some future meeting, as an additional duty attached to the office—to wit,

That in case at any time the Small Pox should break out in the land, or the alarm thereof be spread, the committee do take instantaneous measures for an inoculation of the CowPox, within as short a delay as possible.

Further.

That when the committee warn the inhabitants from house to house, they do inquire for the people of colour.

(Paper No. 16.)

Being the organization of the Committee.

At a meeting of the Committee for Vaccination, appointed by a town vote of 30th October, 1809, it was *Resolved*,

That whereas the town has expressed by their Resolves of the above date a wish that this committee should use their best endeavours for the spread of Cow Pox inoculation, and in order to enable them the better to act thereupon have given them power to organise themselves in that manner which they may deem best calculated to answer the intentions of the town; Considering further, that however unequal to the object the town has thought fit to entrust them with, order and exactitude may be the attainments best within their reach.

Voted, That Mr. Jason Houghton be entrusted with the care of entering into a proper book for that purpose a copy of the proceedings which have taken place, and may take place hereafter in the town respecting Kine Pock transactions, and to accompany them occasionally with such notes and explanations calculated to keep an uninterrupted string of said transactions;

That every copy of any document entered in said register, intended either for private or public communication, be signed by him and that he be styled Recording Secretary of said committee.

Considering further, that the members of this committee being spread over the town, and at a distance from each other, which makes it ill convenient for them to have very frequent meetings.

Voted, That Mr. John Mark Gourgas be entrusted with the care of attending to such occasional transactions as may be deemed not to require the consideration of the whole committee; also,

That he be and is hereby authorised to receive any letters, papers, or communications intended for said committee, and to draught and sign in behalf of said committee such papers, communications, or letters, as may be requisite to forward the object of their appointment, and that he be styled accordingly Corresponding Secretary of said committee.

Voted, That the committee do meet every first Wednesday in every other month, to begin on the first Wednesday in December, at such place and hour as they shall agree, to receive reports from their Secretaries, to inspect the registers severally entrusted to their care, which they shall have ready and complete on those days; and to transact such other business as may occur.

Voted, That any one of the members may call a special meeting of the committee by a written notice directed to each member.

Considering further, that the work now more particularly assigned to them, having been performed until this day under the auspices of their well beloved fellow-labourers, the Selectmen,

Messrs. DAVID TUCKER,
WILLIAM PEIRCE,
JOHN RUGGLES, Jun'r.

and led by their respected names.

Voted, That the Resolves of this day be submitted to their pleasing approbation; and to express a wish of enjoying occasionally the privilege of their advice and co-operation.

Milton, 2d November, 1809. A true copy of Record,

JASON HOUGHTON,
Recording Secretary.

CONCLUSION.

THUS has been completed the town organization which was contemplated.

....TO PROGRESS FURTHER....

The submitting to the consideration of every town in the Commonwealth a printed copy of the communication laid before your Excellency, directed to their Selectmen, would open to the people at large the object in view, engage their hearts in the accomplishment of it, and render welcome an Act of the Legislature entitled, *Cow Pox or Kine Pock Inoculation Bill*, which Milton by their representative might be indulged to introduce at the next session of the General Court.

It forcibly strikes our minds that the measure ought to be brought to the hearts of men previous to any

legislative interference; *for* inoculation cannot be made obligatory, it can only be recommended, and by a simple organization offered in a way easy to be obtained and safe in its result; the communication of the minute details of the proceedings in this town appear to be calculated in some measure to create this effect, and might possibly prepare a willingness for all hands to set to the work, which might be shortly after recommended and organized by a benevolent legislature.

Our souls are inflamed with the desire to have this undertaking pursued, for we see infinite blessings in store for the town, which cherished its birth, for the legislature which will render its fruits permanent, for the State appointed as an instrument of its extension to the benefit of the family of Man; we wish for no praise nor reward, but to be suffered to proceed, that our dust may lay down in mercy, and a blessing repose on our families.

DAVID TUCKER,
WILLIAM PEIRCE,
JOHN RUGGLES, Jun.
} *Selectmen of Milton.*

Milton, 7th Nov. 1809.

To the foregoing communications the Selectmen of Milton have been honored with an answer from his Excellency, at the hands of the Hon. Edward H. Robbins, Esq. of which the following is the copy:

Boston, 8th Nov. 1809.

To Messrs David Tucker, William Peirce and John Ruggles, jun. Selectmen of Milton.

GENTLEMEN,

I DULY received your two communications under date 23d September and November 7th, and have read with deep interest the recital of your conduct in promoting, and attending to the inoculation of the inhabitants of Milton with the Kine pock, and in confirming by the most complete evidence, its infallible security against the Small Pox.

A copy of the card containing the result of the test to which the efficacy of the Kine Pock inoculation was wisely submitted by the town of Milton, is most gratefully received, and will ever be retained by me as conclusive proof of the fact it is intended to establish.

The prudence, care, and vigilance manifested in the measures you adopted, to secure the objects of your solicitude, from accidents resulting from the use of inefficient matter, or from unskilful and careless practitioners, and to verify the efficacy of the Kine Pock in preventing that loathsome distemper, the Small Pox, entitle you to the gratitude not only of those who have been the subjects of your paternal regard, but to the grateful affections of all who are duly impressed with the fatality of the disease, which may be prevented by the mildest of all disorders, as has been satisfactorily established in the United States, as well as in Europe.

The most extensive circulation of your experience on this important subject, of the measures you adopted with the cautions you used, is undoubtedly the first duty of humanity and patriotism, as it cannot fail of exciting the officers of other towns to adopt similar means, especially when the evidence is so perfect of the efficacy of the Kine Pock if administered with the watchful attention discovered in every part of your conduct throughout this interesting transaction.

The reasons you suggest for advising that inoculation should be adopted by the towns, and carried on at stated periods, under the inspection of officers selected for this purpose, and that a record should be made of their doings, are satisfactory, if not conclusive of the fitness of your proposal.

I pray you, gentlemen, to be assured that I am not insensible to the honour you do me in supposing me interested in your benevolent views; to promote which, in every relation, I bear to my fellow-citizens will afford me the highest gratification.

I am not apprised of any thing which I can do at present to enforce or aid your patriotic design, but if any measure likely to be attended with this effect should occur to myself, or can be suggested by others, the same will be most cordially attempted by,

Gentlemen,

Your obt. servt.

C. GORE.

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Hygiene

Milton, Mass.
A collection of papers relative to the transactions of the town of Milton

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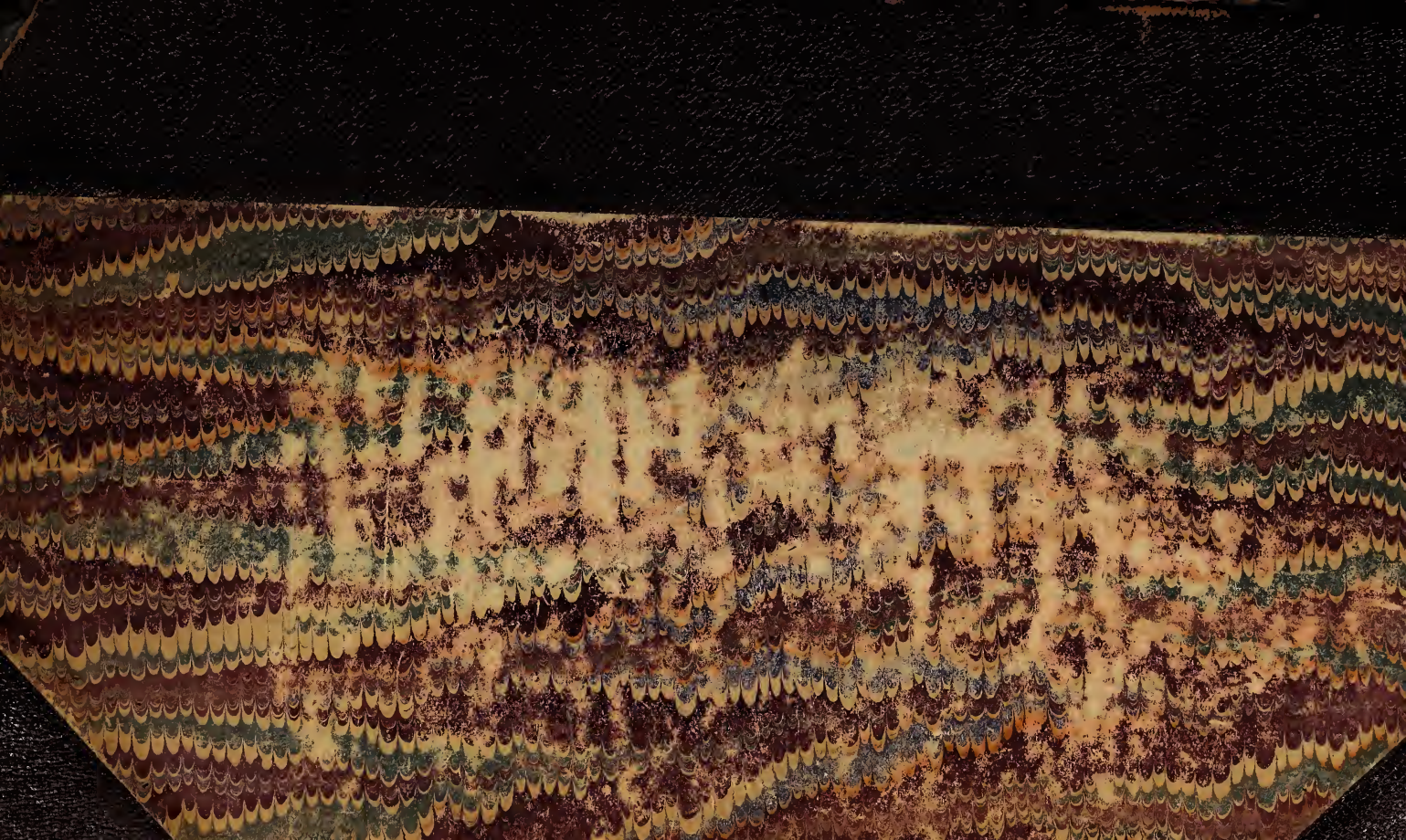
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